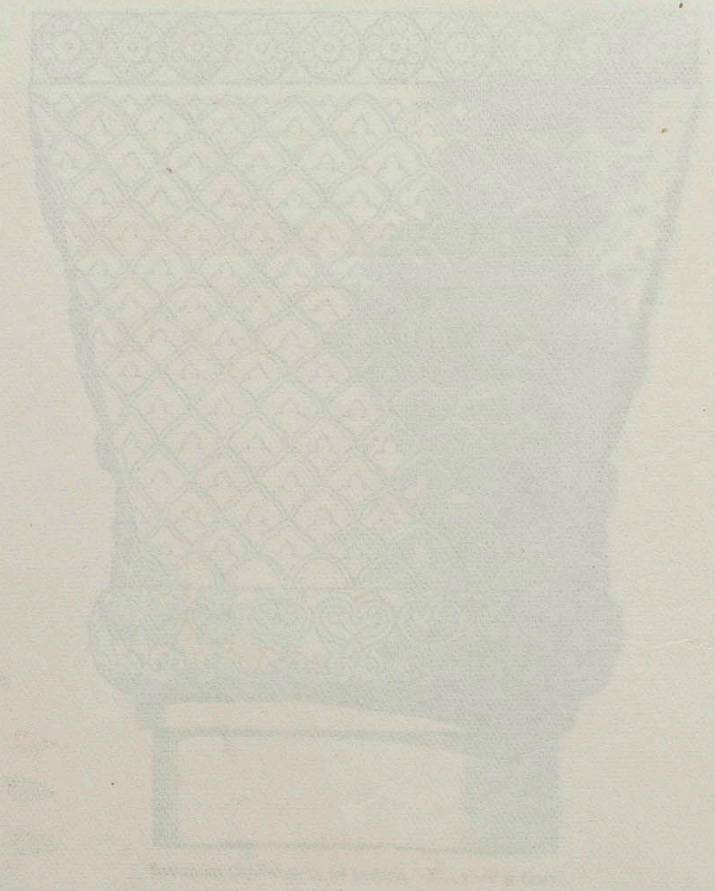


The colours in use by the Assyrians appear to have been blue, red, white and black, on their carved ornaments; blue, red, and gold on their sculptures; and green, orange, buff, white and black, on their architectural works.

The ornaments of Persopolis, represented on Plate XIII, appear to be modifications of Roman designs. Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, are from bases of Ionic columns, which evidently betray a Roman influence. The ornaments from Tab. I. Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, are all constructed on the same principle as Roman ornaments, presenting only a slight modification of the undulating surface, such as we find in Byzantine ornaments, and which the Assyrians have more completely mastered.

The ornaments 12 and 15, from Sassanid capitals, Persopolis, in their general outline, as in Nos. 12 and 15, contain the germs of all the ornamentation of the Arab and Persian. It is the earliest example we meet with of lozenge-shaped designs. The Persians and the Arabs appear to have derived large spaces with patterns formed by concentric arrangement of lines, and this is the first instance of the repetition of curved lines forming a central pattern, and a secondary frame. By the principle contained in No. 16 would be generated all those exquisite forms of filigree which covered the dome of the mosque of Cairo, and the walls of the Alhambra.



TAFEL XII.

PL. XII.

